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President's NASA budget \$13.4 billion

International Space Station gets mention in State of Union address

President Bill Clinton is proposing a \$13.46 billion budget for NASA in fiscal year 1999, a slight decrease from fiscal 1998's \$13.64 billion mark.

The President also closed his State of the Union address with remarks about America's space program, and included STS-88 Commander Bob Cabana in his list of guests for the Capitol speech.

"Even as we explore this inner space in the new millennium, we're going to open new frontiers in outer space," Clinton said. "Throughout all history, humankind had only one

place to call home—our planet Earth. Beginning this year, 1998, men and women from 16 countries will build a foothold in the heavens. The International Space Station, with its vast expanses, scientists and engineers will actually set sail on an uncharted sea of limitless mystery and unlimited potential."

The 1999 budget request to Congress includes \$5.5 billion for human space flight, down from \$5.67 billion in 1998; \$5.46 billion for science, aeronautics and technology, down from \$5.55 billion in 1998; \$2.47 billion for mission sup-

port, up slightly from \$2.38 billion in 1998; and \$20 million for the Office of the Inspector General.

"I know that a budget is about priorities and the promise of the future. But I also believe—deeply—that a budget isn't only about priorities and promise. It is also about performance," NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin said.

"The Administration has clearly articulated its goals for the civil aeronautics and space programs," he continued. "The NASA Strategic Plan lays out our programs to achieve these goals. And the bud-

get proposal which I present to you today provides the resources required to do that. When I was confirmed, I said that a vision must be matched by a schedule and a budget. That is what we have. That is the context for this budget."

Goldin said the budget will enable NASA to keep up the important work of opening the air and space frontiers and enriching the lives of all Americans, and thanked President Clinton for recognizing NASA's promise, making the agency a priority and committing the

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S89-E-5315

THUMBS UP?—Even though up and down have little meaning for Astronaut Andy Thomas now, his predecessor aboard the Russian Mir Space Station gives a thumbs up in the docking hatch as the pair exchange notes on Jan. 26. Dave Wolf returned to Earth aboard *Endeavour*, leaving Thomas to wrap up American Phase 1 Program research aboard the orbiting outpost. More pictures are on Page 4.

STS-89 mission 'incredible,' crew tells welcoming crowd

By Leslie Eaton

Commander Terry Wilcutt described Dave Wolf and Andy Thomas as bold and daring adventurers who are paving the way for a permanent presence on the International Space Station as the STS-89 crew returned home from its docking mission.

"First of all we had an incredible mission," Wilcutt told a crowd of well-wishers who greeted the crew upon their return to Ellington Field on Feb. 1. "It was fun from start to finish. And I think we got everything done. We had the finest team atmosphere that you could possibly hope for on a shuttle team."

The STS-89 crew docked with Russia's Mir Space Station, bringing more than 8,000 pounds of supplies and hardware. The *Endeavour* crew brought home Dave Wolf and left

behind Andy Thomas, who is starting his four-month research mission as the final American to live and work on the 12-year old station.

Wilcutt commended Wolf and Thomas. "They're bold, and they're daring adventurers, and I tell you, you may or may not know that it's an all volunteer force and they are out there paving the way for our permanent presence on the International Space Station."

Pilot Joe Edwards praised the teams on the ground that worked to make the mission a success.

"We get a lot of the press and a lot of the credit for the good things that happen," Edwards said. "But the truth is that it's all of you good folks out there that are really making it happen behind the scenes and it's

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Space station agreements set stage for future

Senior government officials from 15 countries met in Washington on Jan. 29 to sign agreements establishing the framework for cooperation among the partners on the design, development, operation and utilization of the International Space Station.

Acting Secretary of State Strobe Talbott signed the 1998 Intergovernmental Agreement on Space Station Cooperation, along with representatives of Russia, Japan, Canada and participating countries of the European Space Agency (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom).

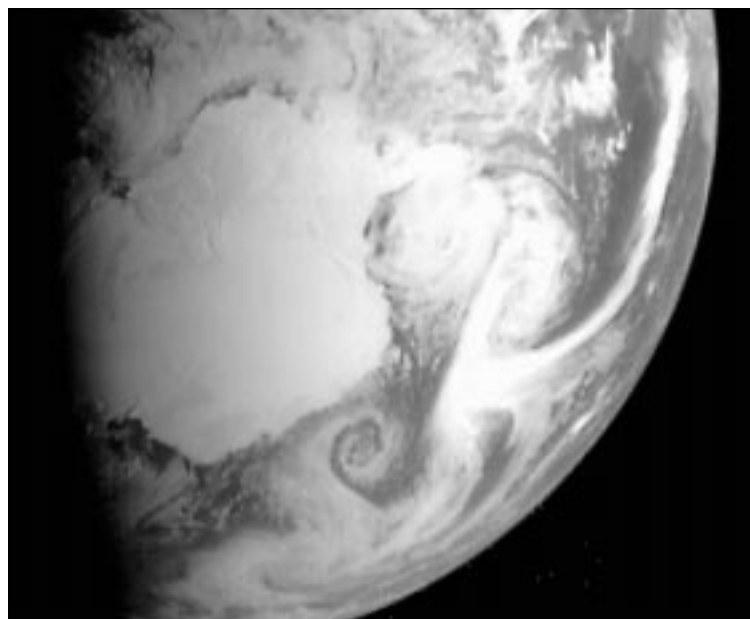
Three bilateral memoranda of understanding also were signed by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin separately with his counterparts: Russian Space Agency General Director Yuri Koptev, ESA Director General Antonio Rodota and Canadian Space Agency President William (Mac) Evans. The memorandum of understanding between NASA and the government of Japan will be signed at a later date.

The new agreements supersede previous space station agreements among the U.S., Europe, Japan and Canada signed in 1988. These new agreements reflect changes to the space station program resulting from significant Russian participation in the program and program design changes undertaken by the original partnership in 1993.

"Today we celebrate a key milestone in humanity's journey into the future. The journey is made possible not through the efforts of any single space agency, not through any single nation, but through the strength and common purpose of the partnership that we celebrate today," said Dr. Jack Gibbons, the President's science adviser.

"The station represents one of the most challenging technological and managerial tasks ever undertaken by mankind. Each of the partners represented here today has a specific and an important role to play," Gibbons added. "Canada, through the Canadian Space Agency, will provide critical robotic capabilities for assembly and operation of the station. The participating nations of

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NASA Photo

SWING-BY SNAPSHOT—NASA's Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous spacecraft snapped this close-up of the home planet using a multispectral imager on Jan. 23, after the spacecraft swung by Earth on its way to the asteroid Eros. The south pole is at the center, with Antarctica surrounded by sea ice and storm fronts.